

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 3-5, 7, and 8. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Original) A method for preserving a packaged deoxygenated hemoglobin blood substitute comprising maintaining the packaged deoxygenated hemoglobin blood substitute in an oxygen barrier film overwrap package including a transparent laminate material, the transparent laminate material comprising a polyolefin layer and an oxygen barrier layer that includes ethylene vinyl alcohol, wherein the laminate has a thickness of between about 0.0254 and 0.254 millimeters, and an oxygen permeability of less than about 0.01 cubic centimeters per 645 square centimeters over 24 hours at one atmosphere and at about 23°C.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the polyolefin layer and the oxygen barrier layer are co-extruded.
3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the oxygen barrier film overwrap package comprises at least two sheets of laminate material, wherein at least one sheet of the overwrap package comprises said transparent laminate material and wherein at least one other sheet of the overwrap package comprises a foil laminate material.
4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein the overwrap package is produced by:
 - a) forming said foil laminate to define at least one chamber;
 - b) placing the packaged deoxygenated hemoglobin blood substitute into said chamber; and
 - c) heat sealing the transparent laminate to the foil laminate, whereby said oxygen barrier film overwrap is formed, thereby containing the packaged deoxygenated hemoglobin blood substitute within the overwrap.

5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the packaged deoxygenated hemoglobin blood substitute is maintained under a nitrogen, argon or helium atmosphere.
6. (Original) A preserved deoxygenated hemoglobin blood substitute, comprising:
 - a) a packaged deoxygenated hemoglobin blood substitute; and
 - b) an oxygen barrier film overwrap package comprising a transparent laminate material, the transparent laminate material comprising a polyolefin layer and an oxygen barrier layer that includes ethylene vinyl alcohol, wherein the laminate has an oxygen permeability of less than about 0.01 cubic centimeters per 645 square centimeters over 24 hours at one atmosphere and at about 23°C, wherein the packaged deoxygenated hemoglobin blood substitute is sealed within the overwrap package.
7. (Currently amended) The preserved deoxygenated blood substitute of Claim 6, wherein the [[first]] polyolefin layer and the oxygen barrier layer are co-extruded.
8. (Currently amended) The preserved deoxygenated blood substitute of Claim 6, wherein the oxygen barrier film overwrap package comprises at least two sheets of laminate material, wherein at least one sheet of the overwrap package comprises said transparent laminate material and wherein at least one other sheet of the overwrap comprises a foil laminate material.
9. (Original) The preserved deoxygenated blood substitute of Claim 8, wherein the overwrap package is produced by:
 - a) forming said foil laminate to define at least one chamber;
 - b) placing the packaged deoxygenated hemoglobin blood substitute into said chamber; and
 - c) heat sealing the transparent laminate to the foil laminate, whereby said oxygen barrier film overwrap is formed, thereby containing the packaged hemoglobin blood substitute within the overwrap.